

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /102 W

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P R 301615Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4249

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4283

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJECT: DEFMIN VREDELING RETAINS CABINET POSITION

REF: A. THE HAGUE 4244

B. THE HAGUE 4245

1. DUTCH CABINET HAS DECIDED TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST
DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN REMARKS
AND PERSONAL CRITICISM OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN INTERVIEW
PUBLISHED AUG. 28. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT

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REPRIEVE MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY AND THAT VREDELING WILL

LEAVE CABINET AFTER TEMPEST DIES.

2. AFTER PRIVATE MEETING WITH DEFMIN YESTERDAY MORNING, AND AFTER AUG. 29 CABINET SESSION DEVOTED TO QUESTION PRIMIN DEN UYL SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT WRONG FOR VREDELING TO EXPRESS HIS OPINIONS OF OTHER CABINET MINISTERS AS HE DID, BUT SINCE HE MEANT NO HARM "CABINET HAS DECIDED THAT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST TO CONTINUE COOPERATION. VREDELING AND CABINET REGRET MANNER IN WHICH HE REFERRED TO NATO SEC-GEN AND NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. VREDELING SAID HE WILL GUARD AGAINST REPITION. IN VIEW OF THIS, MEMBERS OF CABINET ARE OF OPINION THAT THEIR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED".

3. MOST OF VREDELING'S CABINET COLLEAGUES HAVE KEPT SILENT ON AFFIAR, AND OTHER SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MINISTER JAN PRONK HAVE TENDED SHRUG IT OFF. PRONK SAID THAT VREDELING HAS BEEN CALLING HIM NAMES FOR YEARS AND THAT HE HAS BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO, AND PREPARED FOR, IT. OTHER LABOR PARTY LEADERS HAVE SUPPORTED EFFORTS LET MATTER DIE.

4. NOT SURPRISINGLY, OPPOSITION PARTIES, NOT QUITE SO WILLING LOOK OTHER WAY. LIBERALS HAVE CALLED FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON SUBJECT FOR SEPT. 3. LEADERS OF CONFESSIONAL PARTIES (TWO OF WHICH IN GOVERNING COALITION) HAVE EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER VREDELING INTERVIEW AND HAVE ASKED MEET WITH PRIMIN PRIVATELY ON MATTER. CATHOLIC (KVP) PARTY FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN SAYS IN INCONCEIVABLE HOW VREDELING COULD HAVE SAID SUCH THINGS FOR PUBLICATION. ANDRIESSEN HAS RESERVED JUDGEMENT ON QUESTION OF VREDELING'S REMAINING IN CABINET.

5. WHILE DEFMIN HAS SURVIVED CRISIS FOR THE MOMENT, HIS FUTURE REMAINS QUESTIONABLE. INTERVIEW IS NOT ONLY INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH MOST SERIOUS, IN WHICH VREDELING HAS PROVED EMBARRASSMENT TO GON, REF. THE HAGUE 2976. HE HAS RETAINED HIS CABINET SEAT, AND WILL, WITH MOD'S FROM OTHER THREE COUNTRIES IN LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER CONSORTIUM, TRAVEL
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SEPT. 11-13, BUT MAY NOT CONTINUE IN OFFICE FOR DURATION PRESENT GOVERNMENT.
EVEN SOME MEMBERS LABOR PARTY HAVE COMMENTED PUBLICLY ABOUT VREDELING'S "PROBLEMS", AND FACT THAT HE WAXES HOT AND COLD ON CABINET SERVICE.
TANGUY

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